

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicants wish to point out to the Examiner that the Preliminary Amendment, filed together with the above-referenced patent application on October 2, 2003, appears not to have been entered and considered by the Examiner prior to the issuance of the Office Action mailed August 5, 2005. A copy of the Preliminary Amendment, in which Applicants amended both the specification and claims, is attached with the current Amendment for the Examiner's convenience. However, to further prosecution, Applicants are now responding to the Office Action mailed August 5, 2005, taking into account that the Preliminary Amendment will be entered by the Examiner. In doing so, Applicants have canceled claims 15-17 added in the Preliminary Amendment in view of newly added claims 20-41. With respect to the amendments to the specification made in the Preliminary Amendment, Applicants respectfully request that they be entered.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 20-41 are pending; original claims 1-19 have been cancelled and claims 15-17 added in the Preliminary Amendment filed on October 2, 2003 have been canceled. Claims 20-41 are newly added claims and support for these claims are found throughout the specification. In particular, support for claim 20 is found on page 48, lines 3-34 of the application, pages 9 and 12 of the Preliminary Amendment and in the examples on pages 83-91 of the application; support for claims 21, 22, 30, 31, 37 and 38 is found on page 52, lines 2-15 of the application and page 11 of the Preliminary Amendment; support for claim 23 is found on page 32, lines 16-37, page 33, lines 1-14 and in examples on pages 74-83 of the application; support for claims 24, 29, and 36 is found on page 52, lines 25-31; support for claims 32 and 39 is found on page 52, lines 16-24; support for claims 25 and 33 is found on page 47, lines 14-27, page 51 and in the examples on pages 84-86; support for claims 26, 27, 34, 35 and 40 is found on pages 51 and 53; support for claim 41 is found on page 33, lines 18-28. No new matter has been introduced with the new claims. Reconsideration of these new claims is respectfully requested.

Appl. No. 10/678,663  
Amdt. dated November 7, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of August 5, 2005

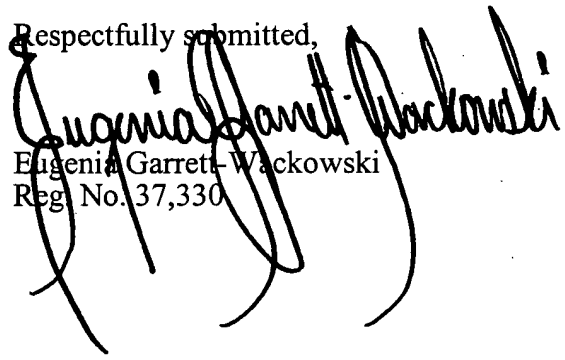
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**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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